

Amendments to the Drawings:

A new replacement sheet 1/6 is submitted wherein each of FIGS. 1-3 is corrected to include the designation "Prior Art".

Attachment: Replacement sheet.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Remarks concerning amendments to drawings

Corrected formal drawing sheet 1/6 is submitted herewith, identified in the top margin by "Replacement Sheet". Each of FIGS. 1-3 is corrected to include the designation "Prior Art". The corrected figures therefore address all objections to the figures made by the Office.

Remarks concerning amendments to claims

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 7. Accordingly, claim 7 is cancelled. Independent claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 12 and 15. Accordingly, claims 12 and 15 are cancelled. Claims 13 and 16, which originally depended from claim 12, are amended to depend from claim 11. Claim 21 is amended to correct minor informalities. New independent claim 26 and dependent claims 27-39 are presented.

Response to rejections

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 7, 10, 15-16, and 23-25 are directed to allowable subject matter. Applicant is amending claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 7. Accordingly, claim 1 and all its dependent claims are amended to be allowable. Similarly, Applicant is amending independent claim 11 to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 15 (as well as intervening claim 12). Accordingly, claim 11 and all its dependent claims are amended to be allowable.

Applicant is presenting new independent claim 26 which is similar to original claim 11. Applicant points out for the record that the rejection of claim 11 relied upon the Ge reference (US6934634). The priority date claimed by the present application (11/15/2002), however, is before the effective date of the Ge reference (9/22/2003).

Applicant also notes that, compared to original claim 11, new claim 26 further includes the step of ordinal numbering the list of entity geocodes with respect to position on the street segment.

None of the references of record suggest a method of geocoding as recited in claim 26 that includes (1) obtaining a list of entity geocodes associated with a side of a street segment; (2) ordinally numbering the list of entity geocodes with respect to position on the street segment; (3) obtaining an ordered list of entity addresses associated with the side of the street segment; and (4) associating the entity geocodes with the entity addresses by an ordinal matching, thereby geocoding the entity addresses. The claimed technique of geocoding provides a significant advance in the art by overcoming errors associated with address interpolation techniques due to curved streets, non-uniformly spaced buildings along a street, and buildings set back far from the street curb. Address interpolation incorrectly assumes buildings along a street segment are uniformly spaced along an imaginary line between street intersections, without knowledge of actual entity geocodes along the street segment between the intersections. In contrast, the present claimed method obtains geocodes for entities along the street segment, linearly orders them, and then matches them ordinally with an ordered list of entity addresses for the street segment. The resulting geocodes are much more precise and accurate because it is not assumed that the entity geocodes are always uniformly or linearly spaced between intersections. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 26 is patentable over the references of record.

Applicant is also presenting claims 27-39 which depend from claim 26. These claims are also patentable over the references of record for the reasons given above for claim 26. In addition, they recite various specific unique features and combinations of features not taught by the references of record. In particular, claims 27-28 recite specific geometric techniques for accurately ordering the list of geocodes along a street segment; claim 29 recites a specific techniques for obtaining entity geocodes along a street segment by combining aerial image processing with street segment data from a street map data source; claim 30 specifies that obtaining the entity geocode data includes receiving street segment data for endpoints of the street segment. These techniques provide embodiments of the present invention with unique advantages due to their role in more precisely determining entity geocodes along a street segment and accurately ordering them. Claims 31-32 relate to specific techniques for obtaining addresses for a street segment and correctly ordering them through taking advantage of range direction and side data for the street segment. Again, these features provide embodiments of the invention with

advantages of more accurately obtaining and ordering addresses for the street segment. Claims 33-38 relate to various specific techniques for associating the ordered addresses with the ordered entity geocodes. These techniques include associating with consideration given to the presence of multi-unit and multi-building entities and/or to street segment address range direction and side data. They also include associating techniques that may include redefining street segments or transferring addresses to adjacent street segments or sides of the street segment. These specific association techniques advantageously avoid various geocoding errors and provide superior geocoding results as compared to prior geocoding techniques.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas J. McFarlane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" and last name "McFarlane" clearly distinguishable.

Thomas J. McFarlane, Reg. No 39,299